

**Christian Stewardship and Misuse  
James 5: 1-6**

**Who do we serve? - Luke 16:13 - Where do we store our treasures? - Matthew 6:19-21**

**These verses form the strongest rebuke in the Epistle of James as he is very blunt to confront his audience and us as to what we worship. James 5:1-6**

**Christian Stewardship - Proverbs 10:22 - Misuse is the love of the gift - 1 Timothy 6:10**

**James is echoing the Old Testament prophets - Isaiah 3:13-15, 10:1-4, Amos 8:4-10**

**James is addressing those in the church who profess faith in Christ but their lifestyle betrays their confession. - James 4:13 "Come now" - Isaiah 1:18-20**

- I. Hoarding - James 5:2-3 - Riches are not the issue but the use of them**
  - A. We do provide for our families - 1 Timothy 5:8**
  - B. The excess is to be used for the Lord but it is the first and best. That which causes us to deny self - Bobby Michaels "Anything that costs me nothing"**
  - C. Luke 12:16-21**
  - D. Garments - 1 Peter 3:1-9 - "James sees all this as senseless - What is the point of feeding moths?" J.A. Moyter, *The Message of James***
  
- II. Fraud for Gain - James 5:4**
  - A. Day laborers were a big part of the economy - Matthew 20:1-16**
  - B. The man sets his heart on his wages so he can feed his family. Deuteronomy 24:14-15, Leviticus 19:13**
  - C. The result is a crying out to the Lord of Sabaoth - Romans 9:29**
  - D. Judgment on those who practice lawlessness - Matthew 13:41-42**
  
- III. Selfish Stewardship - James 5:5**
  - A. Living luxuriously or a soft life at the expense of others**
  - B. Wanton pleasure is a life without self-denial**
  - C. Fattened for slaughter is like one who has fattened themselves from the plunder of their victims - prepared themselves for the slaughterhouse**
  - D. Isaiah 34:5-8**
  - E. Vanity of myself - Solomon in Ecclesiastes 2:4-11**
  
- IV. Ruthless Judicial Acquisition - James 5:6**
  - A. Condemned is to pass judgment or sentence on someone and to murder**
  - B. James "The Just" - Matthew 5:39-42**
  - C. Micah 6:8**

**In Conclusion - 1 Timothy 6:17-21**